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NEWS RELEASE

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Hundreds of Speed Citations Issued as Campaign to “Stop Speeding Before It Stops You” Continues

Dover – During the second month of a statewide enforcement initiative to get drivers to “Stop speeding before it stops you,” Delaware law enforcement officers issued 99 citations alone for speeding violations. This brings the total number of speed citations for the first five weeks of the initiative to 939.

In addition to the 99 speeding citations, officers also made 1 aggressive driving arrest (which requires them to observe three or more traffic violations in one incident), and issued 83 citations for other traffic violations including individual offenses such as running red lights and stop signs, which are identified aggressive driving behaviors.

Preventing speed-related crashes and fatalities is the new focus of the Office of Highway Safety’s 2008 “Stop Aggressive Driving” campaign, which OHS and law enforcement launched July 7th. In 2007, 62% of Delaware’s fatal crashes were caused by aggressive driving behaviors, with speed being the most frequently cited violation. Speeding is second only to DUI as the leading cause of traffic deaths in Delaware according to statewide crash data. Nationally, nearly 13,500 people died in speed-related crashes in 2006.

To complement the enforcement initiative, a multi-faceted media campaign focusing on how much speeding can cost you has been implemented. In addition to the potential for loss of life, speeding will cost you money from citations, higher insurance costs from points on your license, and more money for gas. According to the Department of Energy, aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) can lower gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and 5 percent around town. The agency also estimates that, as a rule of thumb, drivers can

assume that each 5 mph they drive above 60 mph is like paying an additional \$0.20 per gallon for gas.

For more information on the “Stop Aggressive Driving campaign, visit the Office of Highway Safety website at www.ohs.delaware.gov.

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